



**TwoRivers
Gallery**

May 7 to July 19 . 2015

The Prince George Paintings

DAVID THAUBERGER



David Thauberger, *Snowbound (Old City Hall)*, 1997. Acrylic on canvas.

Self Guided Experience

People visiting art galleries like to connect with the art they see and better understand what the exhibiting artist has in mind. We have created this Self-Guided Experience to help you do just that.

This informal guide gives you insight into how the exhibition has been curated. It will walk you through the gallery, asking you to respond to the art and to make your own interpretations around the display. Enjoy the experience.

Two Rivers Gallery
725 Canada Games Way · Prince George
www.tworiversgallery.ca

**Killy
FOUNDATION**



A GOLDEN RAVEN EXPERIENCE

About the Artist

David Thauberger is a life-long Saskatchewan resident and artist. Born and raised in Holdfast, Saskatchewan, he now resides in Regina, having spent only 2 years of his adult life living outside of his home province. Those two years were spent in California and in Montana, where he earned his MA and MFA, respectively. He is known internationally for his paintings of Saskatchewan architecture and was recently awarded the Saskatchewan



Order of Merit. He is also a Member of the Order of Canada, a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Medal as well as the Lieutenant Governor's Saskatchewan Artist Award and is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.

The Prince George Paintings

Enter the Gallery and take a few minutes to take in the entire space. What are your first thoughts? Do you see anything that is familiar to you?

Thauberger's connection to "place" greatly influences his work, whether it is paintings of the Saskatchewan prairies and towns or of other areas, such as Prince George. He often portrays "everyday" buildings and locations in such a way that makes them seem iconic, while at the same time telling a story about the place depicted. In the mid-1990s, Thauberger was commissioned by George Killy (one-third owner of Lakeland Mills and The Pas Lumber Company until 1995) to explore and paint Killy's hometown of Prince George. By 1998, Thauberger had produced 20 paintings of recognized local landmarks. Some of those landmarks no longer exist. Fourteen of his paintings, including three made last year, are in this exhibition.

Walk around the room, looking at the buildings Thauberger has portrayed. What do you notice about the buildings?

Making the Vernacular Iconic

You will notice that most of the paintings are of buildings. Some are commercial buildings, some are dwellings.

Check out *Northern Hardware*, on the east wall of the Gallery. Does it look like today's building? What is the same? What is different?



David Thauberger, *Northern Hardware*, 2014. Acrylic on canvas.

Everyday objects are sometimes referred to as "vernacular". Northern Hardware is a building many of us see on an everyday basis as we drive along Third Avenue. In this painting, Thauberger has transformed it into an iconic image, something representative of

the city. The building, and the business, has stood the test of time in Prince George, surviving the influx and influence of big box stores, remaining an integral part of the city centre.

Notice there are no cars or people in this picture of Northern Hardware. With no items that can be easily identified as belonging to a certain time period, the image becomes timeless, as likely to be seen today in the same way as it was 50 years ago.

Constructed Landscape

Study *K.G.V.*, the portrait of an historic Prince George school (King George Fifth) on the east wall of the Gallery. What story does this painting tell? What is missing from this picture?

David Thauberger's images are characterized by both what he includes and what he doesn't. In his depictions of the constructed landscape or structures built by and for humans, human presence isn't evident.



David Thauberger, *K.G.V.*, 1998. Acrylic on canvas.

Make a list of all the evidence of daily life that might be missing from the picture: people, animals, objects, playground, debris, other buildings... Why did he choose to leave them out of the painting?

Imagine you are standing in front of the building. If you turned away from the school and looked out, what would you see?

One Hundred Years

Take a look at *Last Load (Grand Trunk Pacific)*, facing the glass doors of the Gallery. Did you see this painting two years ago in the permanent collection exhibition, *Chosen*? What is happening in this scene?

Just over one hundred years ago, the railway came to Prince George, spelling the end of the era of the paddlewheeler as a primary transportation method for goods and people to the city. 2015 marks the 100th Anniversary of the city's incorporation. Much has changed since 1915.



David Thauberger, *Last Load (Grand Trunk Pacific)*, 1998. Acrylic on canvas.
Two Rivers Gallery Permanent Collection.

What changes occurred in Prince George in the last 100 years? How is the world of today different than it was in the early 1900s?

David Thauberger's paintings help us to image how things were a century ago, even if the locations of objects in the scene are not entirely accurate. In *Last Load (Grand Trunk Pacific)*, he included many iconic images that represent Prince George.

List some of the iconic symbols of Prince George?

Why do you think he included those items in this painting?

If you were to paint a picture of Prince George, what would you include?

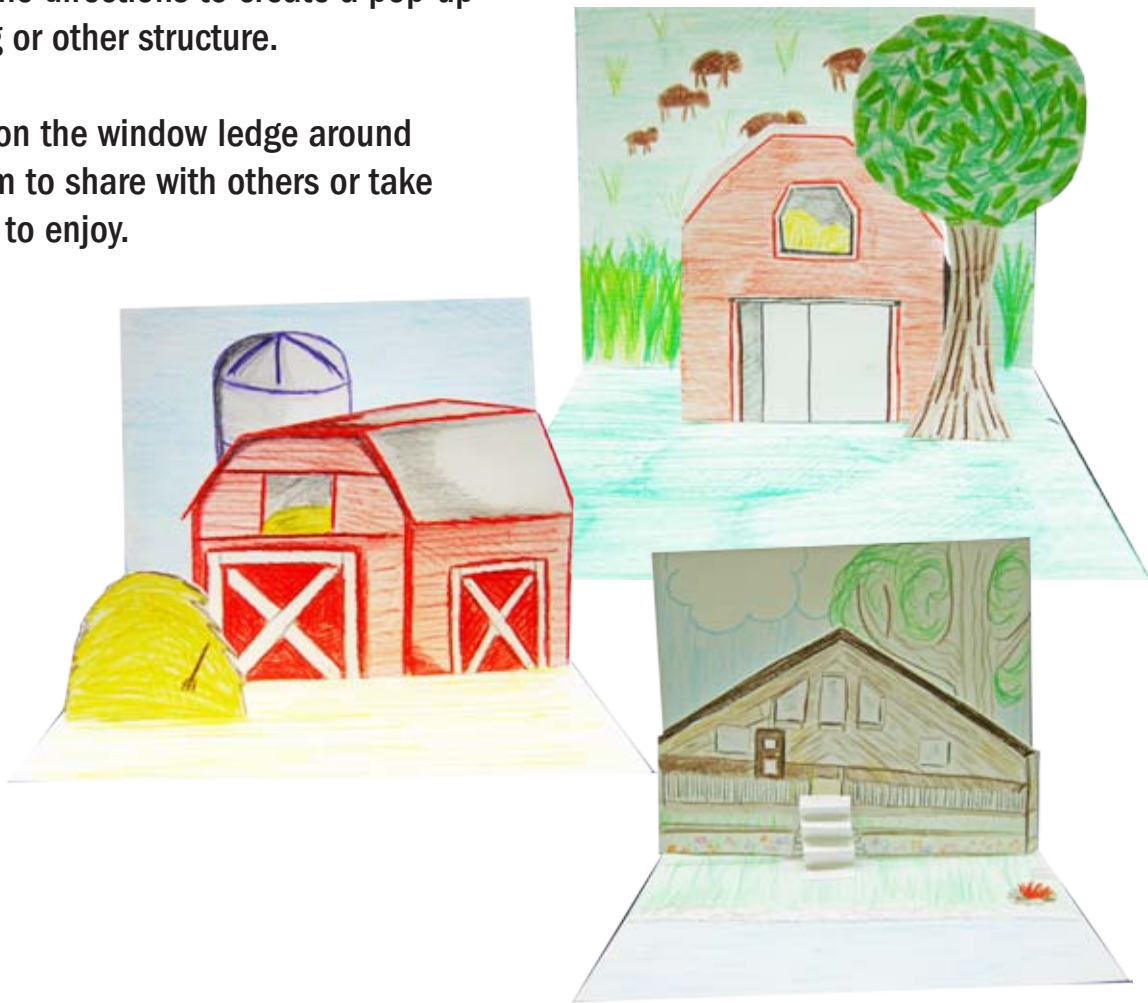
make Art make Sense

Roll up Your Sleeves

Now that you understand more about David Thauberger, we invite you to head over to *make Art make Sense* and create a Prince George landmark of your own.

Follow the directions to create a pop-up building or other structure.

Lean it on the window ledge around the room to share with others or take it home to enjoy.



The Prince George Regional Art Gallery Association gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Regional District of Fraser Fort George, the Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Prince George, the Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council, our members and private and corporate sponsors.

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